

## **Juvenile Accountability and Graduated Sanctions**

**Defining Accountability and Graduated Sanctions** – Accountability in juvenile justice means assuring that as a result of their wrongdoing, juvenile offenders face individualized consequences that make them aware of and responsible for the loss, damage, or injury perpetrated upon the victim. This is best achieved through a system of graduated sanctions, which are imposed surely and swiftly. Graduated sanctions are defined in relation to the nature and seriousness of the offense, moving from limited interventions and treatment to more restrictive actions and increasing levels of treatment if the juvenile offender continues delinquent activities.

### **The Sanctions Portion of the Formula-Based Allocation Must be Spent in One or More of these Twelve Program Purpose Areas**

**Purpose area 1:** Building, expanding, renovating, or operating temporary or permanent juvenile correction or detention facilities, including training of correctional personnel;

**Purpose Area 2:** Developing and administering accountability-based sanctions for juvenile offenders;

**Purpose area 3:** Hiring additional juvenile judges, probation officers, and court-appointed defenders, and funding pre-trial services for juveniles, to ensure the smooth and expeditious administration of the juvenile justice system;

**Purpose area 4:** Hiring additional prosecutors, so that more cases involving violent juvenile offenders can be prosecuted and backlogs reduced;

**Purpose area 5:** Providing funding to enable prosecutors to address drug, gang, and youth violence problems more effectively;

**Purpose area 6:** Providing funding for technology, equipment, and training to assist prosecutors in identifying and expediting the prosecution of violent juvenile offenders;

**Purpose area 7:** Providing funding to enable juvenile courts and juvenile probation offices to be more effective and efficient in holding juvenile offenders accountable and reducing recidivism;

**Purpose area 8:** The establishment of court-based juvenile justice programs that target young firearm offenders through the establishment of juvenile gun courts for the adjudication and prosecution of juvenile firearms offenders;

**Purpose area 9:** The establishment of drug court programs for juveniles so as to provide continuing judicial supervision over juvenile offenders with substance abuse problems and to provide the integrated administration of other sanctions and services;

**Purpose area 10:** Establishing and maintaining interagency information-sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice system, schools, and social services agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts;

**Purpose area 11:** Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that work with juvenile offenders who are referred by law enforcement agencies, or which are designed, in cooperation with law enforcement officials, to protect students and school personnel from drug, gang, and youth violence;

**Purpose area 12:** Implementing a policy of controlled substance testing for appropriate categories of juveniles within the juvenile justice system.